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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **Bureau of Industry and Security**

[160826784-6784-01]

**RIN 0694-XC033**

### **Effectiveness of Licensing Procedures for Agricultural Commodities to Cuba**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is requesting public comments on the effectiveness of its licensing procedures as defined in the Export Administration Regulations for the export of agricultural commodities to Cuba. BIS will include a description of these comments in its biennial report to the Congress, as required by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, as amended (TSRA).

**DATES:** Comments must be received by [INSERT DATE THIRTY DAYS FROM PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments may be sent by e-mail to [publiccomments@bis.doc.gov](mailto:publiccomments@bis.doc.gov) with a reference to “TSRA 2016 Report” in the subject line. Written comments may be submitted by mail to Regulatory Policy Division, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2099B, Washington, DC 20230 with a reference to “TSRA 2016 Report.”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tracy L. Patts, Office of Nonproliferation and Treaty Compliance, Telephone: (202) 482-4252. Additional information on BIS procedures and previous biennial reports under TSRA is available at <http://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/policy-guidance/country-guidance/sanctioned-destinations/13->

policy-guidance/country-guidance/426-reports-to-congress. Copies of these materials may also be requested by contacting the Office of Nonproliferation and Treaty Compliance.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Pursuant to section 906(a) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (TSRA) (22 U.S.C. 7205(a)), the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) authorizes exports of agricultural commodities, as defined in part 772 of the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), to Cuba. Requirements and procedures associated with such authorization are set forth in section 740.18 of the EAR (15 CFR 740.18). These are the only licensing procedures in the EAR currently in effect pursuant to the requirements of section 906(a) of TSRA.

Under the provisions of section 906(c) of TSRA (22 U.S.C.7205(c)), BIS must submit a biennial report to the Congress on the operation of the licensing system implemented pursuant to section 906(a) for the preceding two-year period. This report must include the number and types of licenses applied for, the number and types of licenses approved, the average amount of time elapsed from the date of filing of a license application until the date of its approval, the extent to which the licensing procedures were effectively implemented, and a description of comments received from interested parties during a 30-day public comment period about the effectiveness of the licensing procedures. BIS is currently preparing a biennial report on the operation of the licensing system for the two-year period from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016.

#### **Request for Comments**

By this notice, BIS requests public comments on the effectiveness of the licensing procedures for the export of agricultural commodities to Cuba set forth under section 740.18 of the EAR.

Parties submitting comments are asked to be as specific as possible. All comments received by the close of the comment period will be considered by BIS in developing the report to Congress.

All comments must be in writing and will be available for public inspection and copying. Any information that the commenter does not wish to be made available to the public should not be submitted to BIS.

Dated: September 2, 2016.

Kevin J. Wolf

Assistant Secretary for Export Administration

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